

MANUAL FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

PRE-SEASON MEETING INFORMATION



Missouri State High School Activities Association

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MSHSAA MISSION STATEMENT

“The MSHSAA promotes the value of participation, sportsmanship, team play, and personal excellence to develop citizens who make positive contributions to their community and support the democratic principles of our state and nation.”

INTRODUCTION

Interscholastic activities are an integral part of a student’s education which complements the secondary curricular program. This program shall provide educational and social experiences for the students and school community which result in positive learner outcomes contributing to the development of good citizenship, sportsmanship and equitable competition. Interscholastic activities provide experiences that help develop young men and women physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. The MSHSAA wants to help ensure that you maintain your eligibility so that you may participate in interscholastic activities and enjoy all of the benefits it brings.

Your years in high school and middle level/junior high school will be highlighted by your participation on one of your school’s athletic teams. These will be some of the most enjoyable years of your life. In order to compete, you must be eligible. Eligibility to represent a school in interscholastic activities is a privilege, not a right, and it is attained by meeting the standards of eligibility cooperatively set by the member schools through MSHSAA and any additional standards set by a member school for its own students. These eligibility criteria allow students, such as yourself, to be able to participate and remain eligible. The privilege to participate in activities carries with it a responsibility to the school, to the activity/organization, to the student body, to the community, to your team, and to the individual student. We want you to enjoy the years you participate in interscholastic activities and rekindle the spirit of citizenship in your own community.

Information in this manual will acquaint you with the major rules and regulations you must follow in order to maintain and protect your high school eligibility. This is not a complete list of MSHSAA eligibility requirements, and you should check with the administrators at your school if you have any questions or concerns, as they have a complete copy of all of MSHSAA eligibility requirements.

Knowing, understanding, and following these requirements will enable you to maintain and protect your eligibility. It is important for you to know that all the requirements must be met, as no one requirement is more important than another. Hopefully this manual will be helpful to you, as well as to your parents, in understanding what you need to do in order to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic activities.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC OBJECTIVES

The student-athlete shall learn:

- A) To work with others – In a democratic society a person must develop self discipline, respect for authority and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires.
- B) To be successful – Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication and accept that losing has its place in competition. Develop a desire to succeed and do your best.
- C) To develop sportsmanship – To accept any defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best, we must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
- D) To improve – Continual improvement is an essential component of good citizenship. As a student athlete, you must establish a goal and you must constantly try to achieve that goal. Try to improve in the skills and knowledge required and those personal traits that enhance the success of a team.
- E) To enjoy athletics – It is necessary for student athletes to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from athletics, and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
- F) To develop desirable personal health habits – To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.
- G) To be a successful student athlete - The school athletic programs provide you an opportunity to develop the skill of life, improve your skills, be a healthy competitor and valuable team member. To be a successful student athlete, the opportunities to participate should never become more important or separated from the academic milestones each young person must meet.

BLUEPRINTS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL PARENT

Children learn by observing. Parents must exhibit leadership, sportsmanship, and character if they expect their child to develop these highly desirable traits.

Support

- Be supportive of team coaches and managers. Respect decisions made by others.

- Be an active supporter as a fan and as a parent solicit feedback of your child regarding his/her progress and how the team is developing.
- Be cognizant that all players will not possess the same skills.
- Display stewardship and assistance with your involvement and support of the school and team.
- Do not burden your child to perform outside his/her capabilities. A child doing his/her best is good enough.
- Respect the facilities where events are held and assist to make them better.
- Attend practices and contests when time permits. Every effort should be taken to see that child is present in advance of the start of each game and practice.
- Celebrate team as well as individual improvements.

Responsibilities of the parent

- Make yourself aware of the coach's expectations and team guidelines.
- Attend any team meetings your child's coach may schedule.
- Take the time to know your child's coach and assistants.
- Notify the coach as early as possible, if your child can't attend a team event.
- Know and respect the teams' practice and league schedule. Ensure your child arrives and is picked up accordingly.
- Read and respond to informational notices supplied by the team manager or coaches.
- Read and consent to all items required by the parental consent contracts and codes.
- Provide safe personal equipment.
- Know the rules of the game. Obtain and read the basic and supplemental rules of the sport. Attend any pre-season rule or coordination meetings offered for parents and players.

BLUEPRINTS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL PLAYER

Players are ambassadors of their school, team and their family. Players must exhibit leadership, sportsmanship and character at all times.

The player as a leader

- Accept playing time and positions designated by your coaches.
- Assist where possible in developing the skills of the less experienced teammates.
- Accept and respect team coaches' and manager's decisions.

Know the rules

- Obtain and read the basic and supplemental rules of your sport.
- Learn and apply the rules of the game to the best of your ability.
- Attend any pre-season rules or coordination meetings offered for players.

Know your organization and its policies

- Supply your coach with accurate information at all times.
- Show respect for your team's equipment.
- Submit all fees, registration, identification cards, parental consent forms, etc. to your coach in a timely manner.

Participation and performance

- Enjoy your sport. If something is troubling you, speak to a parent or coach.
- Be prepared. Attend practices with proper equipment.
- Listen and participate fully.
- Attend and be on time for team practices and games.
- Respect your teammates.

PURPOSE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student activities will develop leadership abilities in student athletes while at the same time promote school spirit and loyalty. Students also begin to establish good habits for citizenship, teamwork skills, and development in many areas of life.

HAZING AND HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the MSHSAA Board of Directors that hazing and harassment have no place in school-sponsored activity programs and pose a significant risk to the physical and mental welfare of students. Coaches, directors, sponsors and administrators must take an active role in the prevention of all forms of hazing and harassment. Students directly or indirectly involved in hazing incidents, on or off school grounds, could be considered ineligible by the school administration under the MSHSAA citizenship standard, By-Law 212.

- **Hazing:** Willful conduct directed at a student that is intended to physically or emotionally intimidate, punish, embarrass, humiliate, ridicule, or place any student in a disconcerting position for the purpose of initiation, affiliation, inclusion or membership in any team or organization.
- **Harassment:** Unwelcome conduct by a person that is sufficiently serious, persistent or pervasive, so that it affects another person's ability to participate in or benefit from the school program or activity by creating an intimidating, threatening or abusive environment.

REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION

Parental Permission

The MSHSAA requires student participants to provide information that will be documented on the MSHSAA Participation Certificate. The following information is required before a student may participate in activities:

Prior to each year of interscholastic athletic participation, a student shall furnish a statement, signed by the student's parents or guardians, which grants permission for the student to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Physical Exams and Insurance

Every athlete must have a current and valid physical before they are allowed to practice and compete. Physicals obtained after February 1 of the current year are valid for the next school year. The school shall require that you have a certificate of an issued physical signed and authorized by a physician, advanced nurse practitioner in written collaborative practice with a physician, or a certified physician's assistant in collaboration with a sponsoring physician stating that you are physically able to participate in athletic practices and contests of your school. You will not be permitted to practice or compete for your school until a complete, signed certificate is on file at the school.

No one may practice or participate for a school until there is verification that you have basic athletic health insurance coverage. Athletes are required to provide their own health insurance. On the physical form, parents are asked to verify coverage. The individual school shall verify coverage.

Pre-Season Meeting

It is strongly recommended that coaches hold a pre-season meeting for students and the parents. This should be structured for the students and at least one parent to attend the meeting. The meeting will cover important issues that the student and parents need to know in order to maintain eligibility and maximize their school experience.

GENERAL STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETICS

Citizenship

Creditable citizens are those students whose conduct – both in school and out of school – will not reflect discredit upon themselves or their school. You must be a creditable citizen in order to be eligible. In general, if you are found to be in violation of school policy, local laws, or state laws, you will not be considered a creditable citizen and may forfeit the privilege to compete.

Academic Requirements

- Grades 9-12
 - In the preceding semester of attendance, you must have earned a minimum of 2.5 units of credit (normally is five courses) or have earned credit in 70% of the maximum allowable classes in which any student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater.
 - Currently, you must be enrolled in, and regularly attending, courses that offer 2.5 units of credit of 70% of the maximum allowable classes in which any student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater.
 - The credits you are enrolled in are persisting toward graduation from your school.

- Summer school courses for academic eligibility may count provided the course is necessary for graduation or promotion and is placed on the school transcript. No more than 1 unit of credit in summer school can be counted toward eligibility. Electives and correspondence courses are not accepted.
- If beginning the 9th grade, you must have been promoted at the close of the previous school year.
- You must be making satisfactory progress toward graduation as determined by your local school's policy.
- Grades 7-8
 - You must be enrolled in a normal course load for your grade at the member school.
 - For the new school year, you must have been promoted to a higher grade prior to the first day of classes. You will become ineligible if you failed more than two courses the previous semester, even though you may have been promoted.

In all cases be sure to check with your school for eligibility purposes if considering summer school, correspondence course, on-line courses etc.

Semesters of Participation Limits

You cannot participate in more than four seasons in grades 9-12 in any interscholastic activity. A student shall have only eight consecutive semesters (four consecutive years) of eligibility in high school, where he/she may participate in one season per year in an activity. You are eligible to participate in any sport for a maximum of four seasons. Any part of a contest played during a season counts as a season of participation.

A student is eligible for only two semesters in each the seventh and eighth grade beginning with the first semester of entrance in each grade. A student who is repeating the seventh or eighth grade is not eligible.

You are not eligible to compete with or against students enrolled in the tenth grade or above when you are enrolled in either seventh or eighth grade.

Entering School

“Entering school” for the purpose of eligibility consists of regular registration for classes and attendance in classes. You must enter school within the first 11 days of the semester in order to be eligible to participate for the current semester.

Undue Influence

All members of the MSHSAA must refrain from recruitment, inducement or other forms of persuasion and undue influence which would encourage a student to enroll in a school primarily for interscholastic purposes.

You will forfeit your eligibility if the enrollment in a school or the transfer from one school to another is because of undue influence by any person or group connected, either directly or indirectly with a member school.

You will be ineligible at the school concerned for a period not to exceed the remainder of his/her high school career and not to exceed 365 days at the member school from which you transferred from, or if an incoming freshman, the school you were eligible to attend under the Promotion Standard.

Such conduct may require the school concerned to forfeit participation in the district and state tournament(s) and the school's membership status in the Association shall be jeopardized and shall result in other such action as the MSHSAA Board of Directors deems appropriate.

What constitutes undue influence shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. Undue influence may, if primarily used to encourage or facilitate participation in interscholastic activities, include but not be limited to:

1. The offer or acceptance of money, room, board, clothing or other valuable considerations to a student, or a student's parent or guardian, including but not limited to:
 - a) transportation to and/or from school by any school official;
 - b) provision for free or reduced rent for a parent or guardian;
 - c) offer or payment of the moving expenses of a parent or guardian.
2. Waiving or reducing tuition for any student to be certified as eligible for interscholastic activities, without establishing and following a plan submitted by the school and approved by the MSHSAA Board of Directors.
3. The payment of tuition by someone other than a student's immediate family or a financial aid program not approved by the Board of Directors.
4. The offer or acceptance of remuneration for work in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
5. The offer or acceptance of school privileges or considerations not normally granted to other students.
6. Any inducement to get a parent, guardian or student to change residence for interscholastic activities purposes.
7. The contacting of a student(s) in another school by any person or group connected, directly or indirectly, with a member school and attempting to persuade or induce that student(s), primarily for interscholastic activities purposes, to attend the inducer's school.

Playing Under a False Name

You immediately become ineligible if you compete or participate under an assumed or false name.

Age Limits

- Grades 9-12
 - If you reach 19 years of age prior to July 1, you will be ineligible the next school year.
 - You will be eligible if you reach the age of 19 on or following July 1.
- Grades 7-8
 - You must not have reached 14 years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school in order to participate on or against teams made up of only seventh-graders.
 - You must not have reached 15 years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school in order to participate on or against teams made up of only eighth-graders.
 - You must not have reached 16 years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school in order to participate on or against teams made up of only ninth-graders.
 - You may participate with the next higher grade when you no longer meet the age limit for your grade.

Transferring Schools

- You will be ineligible for 365 days if you transfer schools and your parents do not move into the district of your new school – unless you meet one of the exceptions listed in the MSHSAA Residence and Transfer Rules.
- If you move to your new school district with your parents, you will be eligible at your new school provided that you were eligible in all other respects at your former school. You cannot be eligible to represent two different schools in the MSHSAA state tournament series in the same sport during the same season.
- You and your parents must move to the new residence at the same time.
- You, as a transfer student, must be eligible in all respects at the school from which you are transferring to be eligible at the school to which you are transferring.
- A transfer of eligibility form provided by the MSHSAA Office shall be expedited for any transfer student before you may be considered eligible without establishing a 365 days period of attendance from the date of enrollment. You will not be permitted to compete until the principal receives the information provided on this form from the school in which you transferred, verifying that you meet the standards of eligibility to compete.
- You cannot become eligible until the fifth day of enrollment. EXCEPTION: If an interscholastic contest is played either before the formal opening of school or before the fifth day of the fall semester, if you are eligible in all other respects you may be eligible to participate under this provision provided that you are properly enrolled in the school.
- If you participate in an MSHSAA district or state tournament contest, you will not be eligible during the state tournament series in the same sport in the same season at a second school, even if you complete an otherwise legal transfer to the second school.
- *You should always check with your school principal before you transfer to determine whether it will affect your eligibility.*

Amateur and Awards Standards

- You will become ineligible in the sport concerned if you receive cash, merchandise or services for participating in an athletic contest or being an athlete if the merchandise or value exceeds \$25 suggested retail price.
- You may accept awards which are symbolic in nature, such as medals, ribbons, trophies, plaques, etc. for participating in a school athletic program.
- You may accept awards which are merchandise and such awards shall not exceed \$25 in the suggested manufacturer's retail price.
- The Activities Director must approve the awards as described above, presented by a person or group other than your school and the suggested manufacturer's retail price of a merchandise award shall not exceed \$25.
- You may accept awards for participating in non-school sponsored athletic competition only if the awards are symbolic in nature or the merchandise item does not exceed \$25 in suggested retail value.
- You may not receive services or discounts related to you being an athlete.
- You may only receive actual expense money for athletic trips that all receive.

Non-School Competition Conflicts

- You may not practice for or participate with a non-school team or as an individual in any organized non-school athletic competition or practice *and* for your school team in the same sport during the same school sport season.

- You may participate on a school team and a non-school team in *different sports* during the same season; however, you may not practice for the non-school team or participate in organized non-school athletic competition *on the same day* that you practice with or participate for the school team without approval from your school administrator.
- You must receive approval in advance from the school administrator in order to miss school time to practice for, travel to, or compete in organized non-school athletic competition.
- You may not play at any time on an organized non-school basketball, football, or volleyball team made up only of members of your school team unless: a) the teams are nontraditional as defined in 235.2-b with limits to out of season; or b) during the summer months where there is no limit on team rosters/lineups (235.2-b).
- You will be ineligible in any sport in which you play as a member of a junior college, college or university team.
- You may participate in international competition Olympics and Olympic trails and training during the school year; however, the competition must meet the established criteria published in the MSHSAA Official Handbook and must be approved in advance by the MSHSAA Board of Directors.
- *You should consult your school principal or athletic administrator before you join a non-school team or enter any non-school competitive athletic event to ensure these standards are met.*

Non-School Competition

This is in regards to participation of junior and senior high school athletes in off-season and summer non-school athletic competition. The following should help assist students and parents in evaluating these programs.

- The competition must be sponsored by a non-school entity (civic organization, service organization, parks and recreation department, etc.). Member schools or school booster clubs may not sponsor any non-school competition in sports in which their school participates interscholastically in which they include students from any member school as participants.
- If member school facilities are used, arrangements must be made by the sponsoring organization in accord with lease or rental policies adopted by the Board of Education to apply to general use of school facilities by non-school groups.
- During the school year and outside the school sport season, no coach may provide instruction, coach or play on a team on which members of his/her school team will be participating nor may he/she be directly involved in the actual administration of such games, including officiating.
- During the school year no non-school basketball, football or volleyball team may be comprised solely of members of the same school team.
- During the summer months only there is no restriction on team rosters and/or line-ups for any sport.
- The non-school team may not be an All-Star team. Teams must be selected on a basis of try-outs which are open to any student or on a basis whereby students sign up for a league and are randomly assigned to teams.
- No school uniforms or equipment may be used; the players must participate unattached to their schools.
- The school or coach may not provide transportation; however during the summer months if a member of the school coaching staff is the bona fide non-school team coach he/she may provide transportation to team members only.
- A student may receive a merchandise award that shall not exceed \$25 in manufacturer's suggested retail price.
- Participation must be voluntary on the part of the student and not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school squad.

Attending Sports Camps and Clinics

- You may attend a specialized summer athletic camp(s)/clinic(s) where you receive instruction or coaching from a member of your school's coaching staff for a maximum of two calendar weeks in any one sport. A calendar week for any sports camp is defined as any seven consecutive days and any consecutive grouping of days shall be counted as one calendar week.
- You may attend a non-school sponsored summer specialized sports camp(s) or group instruction for as long as you wish where you do not receive instruction or coaching from a member of your school's coaching staff.
- You may attend a non-school-sponsored specialized sports camp(s) or group instruction during the school year outside of the school sport season provided: it does not result in any loss of school time, attendance does not occur within 14 days of the start of the school sport season for the sport concerned, it is not a team camp, no competition occurs other than limited scrimmaging, and no member of the coaching staff of the school you attend (or will attend) is involved in any way.
- You may attend a non-school sponsored specialized sports camp(s) or group instruction during the school sport season provided a school coach attends with you, camp attendance does not result in any loss of school time, it is not a team camp, there is no competition other than limited scrimmaging, and a school administrator approves your participation.

- If an individual sport skills camp is sponsored by a school, a) you may attend any camp of your choice up to and including the summer preceding your entry into the eighth grade or b) after you enter the eighth grade, you may only attend a school sponsored sports camp at the school you are enrolled to attend in grades 9-12 (unless a transfer in grades 9-12 occurs).
- You will lose your eligibility if you receive a scholarship, waiver of fees or payment of travel expenses to attend the camp. You or your parents must pay all camp/clinic fees, tuition, and other related expenses.
- *You should consult with your school principal or athletic administrator before attending any specialized athletic camp(s)/clinic(s) to ensure it meets the criteria published in the MSHSAA Official Handbook.*

All-Star Games

An all-star event is one in which an individual is invited to participate due to his or her high school achievements.

You may not compete in an all-star game or contest before you complete your eligibility in each high school sport. If you participate in an all-star game or contest before ending your high school eligibility, you will become ineligible to participate in any high school sport.

A senior that has no eligibility remaining for a specific sport may participate in *one* All-Star game for that sport during the school year. Consult your administrator before agreeing to play.

Graduated Students

You will be ineligible to participate after graduation from a senior high school. You are ineligible for further participation if you are granted an early release after their junior year.

You are eligible to participate in state-level events which extend beyond the date of your school's graduation at the end of the spring semester of your senior year.

College Auditions and Tryouts

You may participate in a college tryout, audition or evaluation event for a specific sport *outside* the school season of the sport concerned (MSHSAA By-Law242).

You may not miss school time to travel or participate in the event unless your absence is approved *in advance* by the school administrator.

You may not miss an MSHSAA-sponsored postseason athletic event to participate in or travel to and from the event.

You should consult with your administrator before agreeing to attend any such events.

Recruiting of Athletes

You will be ineligible if you are influenced directly or indirectly by a person or persons to attend upon promotion or transfer schools for athletic or activities purposes. You may, however, return to your original school and be ineligible for no more than 365 days.

Transfer for Athletic Reasons

You will be ineligible for 365 days if you transfer to another school for athletic reasons, as defined in MSHSAA By-Law 238.

Sportsmanship

You could become ineligible if you commit an unsportsmanlike act while participating in an event.

As a spectator, if your conduct is found to be unsportsmanlike, you could be barred from attending any further high school athletic contests.

The unsportsmanlike conduct of any spectator – regardless of age – could cause that spectator to be barred from attending school athletic contests.

Foreign Student Eligibility

- You are eligible for varsity competition for one year only, provided you are participating in an exchange program listed by CSIET (Council on Standards for International Educational Travel).
- You must meet the age requirement of not reaching age 19 prior to July 1.
- You must possess a current and valid visa.
- You must have enrolled within the first 11 days of the semester.
- You must meet all other general student-eligibility requirements.
- You are eligible only for a sub-varsity competition if you meet all standards of eligibility except a CSIET program.

OTHER ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Conditioning Requirements

Each squad must have 14 days of conditioning practice and each individual must have participated in 14 school conditioning practices on 14 different days prior to the date of the first interscholastic contest.

This pertains to all sports except for fall baseball, golf, fall softball, and tennis where each squad must have a minimum of 10 days of conditioning practice and each individual must have participated in 10 different school conditioning practices on 10 different days prior to the date of the first interscholastic contest.

This requirement shall be waived if a student has been a member of another school sports squad immediately preceding the sport season and has had 14 days of conditioning. (The student may not have been out of practice for more than seven (7) days).

Emergency Medical Authorization

Each athlete's parents shall complete an Emergency Medical Authorization Card/Form giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent(s) are not available, and permission for their child to participate. The card/form will be kept by the school for availability at all practices and contests.

Attendance/Suspensions

You must be in school a full day on the day of the activity in order to participate in an extracurricular activity and to be eligible.

If a student misses class(es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date.

The student cannot be eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes (or has an excused absence(s) from class) without an unexcused absence.

You will not be considered eligible while under suspension.

If you are expelled or withdraw from school because of disciplinary measures or while under suspension, you will not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion or withdrawal.

Open Facilities

School administrators may open the school's gymnasium or other facilities designated for free play recreational activities without being in violation of MSHSAA By-Laws pertaining to school sport seasons and non-school competition provided it is conducted under certain conditions.

When "open facilities" activities are to be open to any officially enrolled students of the school, the following requirements shall apply:

- All "open facility" activities shall be posted or announced publicly at least two days prior to the activity.
- The "open facility" will be supervised from beginning to end by the school personnel who have scheduled the activity with advanced approval from the appropriate school administrator.
- The facility is open for participation to all officially enrolled students of the school.
- A variety of activities are available and the students are not limited to one sport or activity.
- There is no coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques of any sport that is "out-of-season" under MSHSAA By-Laws. The coach may supervise the activity, but may not participate in any way by coaching, playing, officiating, etc. Neither the coach nor the school can provide transportation to attend "open facilities" sessions.)
- There are no organized drills in the skills or techniques in any sport.
- Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a high school squad.
- Comparable opportunities are afforded both sexes.
- The individual school administration assumes the responsibility of making certain that there is full compliance to this policy.

Use of Tobacco and Alcohol

Use of any tobacco, alcohol, or controlled substance (other than prescription) by any participant while at an MSHSAA event on any event building/grounds is prohibited. Violation shall result at a minimum of disqualification from the event.

Code of Conduct

Your member school in which you are enrolled should have a code of conduct. It is expected that you follow that code, and any violation of the code can result in ineligibility.

Transportation Policies

Students are required to ride both to and from all contests on the transportation provided or arranged by the member school. Some schools may allow a student, with the prior approval of the head coach, ride home from a contest with his/her parent(s). This will be a local school policy.

This manual has been prepared by the MSHSAA to assist member school, their student and parents in understanding some of the key eligibility issues to help the student maintain his/her eligibility. This manual does not replace or supercede the MSHSAA by-laws. Questions regarding eligibility should always be directed first to the school's Athletic Administrator.